Laborers' International Union of North America
LOCAL 1686

February 17, 2011

SB-332

Chair and Members of the Telecommunications and Energy Committee thank you for letting Laborers' Union Local #1686 submit our written testimony.

Laborers' Union Local #1686 represents 1538 members throughout the State of Montana. We are in support of SB-332 and urge you to do the same.

We are in support of this bill because we believe that by passage of this bill, extending the renewable energy standard and providing for the immediate implementation of the bill, coupled with the constant interest in Montana's wind, hydro and bio-mass capabilities, a substantial amount of construction and support work will be created for our members and many other working women and men living in our communities. Good family wage jobs with benefits.

The procurement standards within the bill that require the supplier to procure yearly increasing minimums of its retail sales of electrical energy in Montana from eligible renewable resources in Montana will bring jobs to our State. This will require for wind farms, Dam renovations and perhaps some bio mass projects to be built in our State, not Washington, or Oregon or Wyoming. Every day we receive notices in our office of potential projects in our State in the renewable industry, but most of these projects never come to fruition. Passage of this bill will bring these jobs to our communities. There are many skilled crafts workers, vendors and communities that are waiting for projects like this to come to Montana.

The Judith Gap and Glacier Wind Farms built within the past six years and the new power house being built at the Rainbow Dam in Great Falls are the only projects of significance that we have seen in the renewable construction industry. Why not take advantage of our natural resources and create jobs?

Once again we are in support of SB-332 and we urge the Energy and Telecommunications Committee to do the same.

Kim Rickard
Business Manager
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